

Geo Adams Group Pension Fund

Statement of Investment Principles

Date: October 2021

Preface

Scheme background

This Statement of Investment Principles (the 'SIP') details the principles governing investment decisions for the Geo Adams Group Pension Fund ('the Fund').

The Fund operates for the exclusive purpose of providing retirement and death benefits to eligible participants and beneficiaries, and provides benefits calculated on a defined benefit (DB) basis. The Fund is closed to new entrants and to future accrual.

Regulatory requirements and considerations

Under the Pensions Act 1995 (the 'Act') and subsequent legislation, principally the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 (the 'Investment Regulations'), the Trustees must secure that a written statement of the principles governing the investment decisions is prepared and maintained for the Fund.

This SIP also reflects the Myners principles for institutional investment decision-making, which require trustee boards to act in a transparent and responsible manner.

The Trustees are responsible for all aspects of the operation of the Fund including this SIP.

In agreeing their investment strategy, the Trustees have had regard to:

- The requirements of the Act concerning suitability and diversification of investments and the Trustees will consider those requirements on any review of this SIP or any change in the investment policy.
- The requirement of the Investment Regulations: in particular assets that are held to cover the Fund's technical provisions must also be invested in a manner appropriate to the nature and duration of the expected future retirement benefits payable under the Fund.
- In respect of the additional voluntary contribution ('AVC') arrangements provided on a money-purchase basis, the Trustees have taken into account the requirements and recommendations within the Pensions Regulator's code of practice 13: Governance and administration of occupational trust-based schemes providing money purchase benefits and regulatory guidance. Information on the Trustees' approach to investment matters within the AVC arrangements is included within this SIP.

Responsibilities and appointments

Only persons or organisations with the necessary skills, information and resources are actively involved in taking investment decisions affecting the Fund. The Trustees draw on the expertise of external persons and organisations including the investment consultant, investment managers and the Scheme Actuary. Full details are set out in this SIP.

Consultation

In accordance with the Act, the Trustees have obtained and considered written advice from Buck Consultants (Administration & Investment) Limited (the 'investment consultant') prior to the preparation (or revision) of this SIP and have consulted Tulip Limited (the 'Sponsoring Employer'). However, it should be noted that neither the Trustees

(nor any investment manager to whom they have delegated any discretion to make decisions about investments) shall require the consent of the Sponsoring Employer to exercise any investment power.

Review

The Trustees will review this SIP at least every three years and without delay after each significant change in investment policy, taking note of any changes in the Fund's liabilities. Once agreed, and after consultation with the Sponsoring Employer, a copy of this SIP will be given to the Scheme Actuary and is publicly available to members on the company's website.

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Statement of Investment Principles

Investment governance structure

All investment decisions are taken by the Trustee Board as a whole. The Trustees believe that collective responsibility is the appropriate structure, given the size of the board, except for specific projects when an investment sub-committee may be set up. The Trustees will undertake training where appropriate to ensure they have the necessary expertise to take the decisions required and to evaluate critically the advice received.

All investment decisions relating to the Fund are under the control of the Trustee Board without constraint by the Sponsoring Employer. The Trustees will consult with the Sponsoring Employer when changing this SIP.

All day-to-day investment decisions are delegated to properly qualified and authorised investment managers of pension scheme portfolios. Investment management agreements have been exchanged with the investment managers, and are reviewed from time-to-time to ensure that the manner in which they make investments on behalf of the Trustee Board are suitable for the Fund, and appropriately diversified.

Investment strategy and objectives

The Fund's investment strategy has been agreed by the Trustees having taken advice from the investment consultant in relation to the suitability of investments and the need to diversify and takes due account of the Fund's liability profile along with the level of disclosed surplus or deficit.

The agreed investment strategy is based on an analysis of the Fund's liability profile, the required investment return and the returns expected from the various asset classes over the long-term. Long-term returns from equities are expected to exceed the returns from bonds and cash, although returns and capital values may demonstrate higher volatility. The Trustees are prepared to accept this higher volatility in order to aim to achieve the overall investment objectives.

The Trustees' primary objectives are:

- To provide appropriate security for all beneficiaries.
- To achieve long-term growth sufficient to provide the benefits from the Fund.
- To achieve an appropriate balance between risk and return with regards to the cost of the Fund and the security of the benefits.

The Trustees have translated their objectives into a suitable strategic asset allocation benchmark for the Fund, details of which are included in the appendices of this SIP.

In accordance with the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000, the Trustees are responsible for setting the general investment policy, but the responsibility for all day-to-day investment management decisions has been delegated to an investment manager authorised under the Act. Details are included in the appendices of this SIP.

The Trustees are responsible for reviewing both the Fund's asset allocation and investment strategy as part of each actuarial valuation in consultation with the Fund's investment consultant. The Trustees may also reconsider the asset allocation and the investment strategy outside the triennial valuation period where necessary.

The Trustees consider the Fund's current strategic asset allocation to be consistent with the current financial position of the Fund.

The Trustees' policy in relation to the kinds of investments to be held

The Trustees have full regard to their investment powers as set out in Rule 4.2 of the Trust Deed and Rules dated March 1992.

The Fund may invest in quoted and unquoted securities of UK and overseas markets including:

- Equities.
- Fixed interest and index-linked bonds.
- Cash.
- Property.
- Private equity.
- Hedge funds and pooled investment vehicles considered appropriate for tax-exempt registered occupational pension schemes.

The Trustees have considered the attributes of the various asset classes (including derivative instruments), these attributes being:

- Security (or quality) of the investment.
- Yield (expected long-term return).
- Spread (or volatility) of returns.
- Term (or duration) of the investment.
- Liability Hedging attributes.
- Currency exchange rate risk.
- Marketability and liquidity (i.e. the tradability on regulated markets).
- ESG and climate risk.
- Taxation.

The Trustees consider all the stated classes of investment to be suitable to the circumstances of the Fund. The Fund invests in pooled funds, other collective investment vehicles and cash. The Trustees have made the decision to invest the majority of assets in pooled funds because:

- The Fund is not large enough to justify direct investment on a cost-effective basis.
- Pooled funds allow the Trustees to invest in a wider range of assets, which serves to reduce risk.
- Pooled funds provide a more liquid form of investment than certain types of direct investment.

The Trustees' policy in relation to the balance between different kinds of investments

The appointed investment manager will hold a diversified mix of investments in line with their agreed benchmark and within their discretion to diverge from the benchmark. Within each major market each manager will maintain a diversified portfolio of securities. Full details are set out in Appendix 1 of this SIP.

The Trustees' policy in relation to the expected return on investments

The investment strategy is believed to be capable of exceeding, in the long run, the overall required rate of return assumed in the Scheme Actuary's actuarial valuation report in order to reach / maintain a fully funded status under the agreed assumptions.

The Trustees' policy in relation to the realisation of investments

In the event of an unexpected need to realise all or part of the assets of the portfolio, the Trustees require the investment managers to be able to realise the Fund's investments in a reasonable timescale by reference to the market conditions existing at the time the disposal is required and subject to the best interests of the Fund. The majority of the assets are not expected to take an undue time to liquidate as all of the funds are daily dealt and fairly liquid.

The Trustees' policy in relation to financially material considerations

The Trustees expect their investment manager, where appropriate, to have taken account of financially material considerations, including environmental, social and governance ('ESG') factors as part of their investment analysis and decision-making process.

The Trustees review, from time to time, the investment managers' policies in respect of financially material considerations and are satisfied they are consistent with the above approach. The Trustees' policy in relation to the extent to which non-financial matters are taken into account

The Trustees' objective is that the financial interests of the Fund members is their first priority when choosing investments. The Trustees have decided not to take members' preferences into account when considering these objectives.

Risk capacity and risk appetite

The Trustees, after seeking appropriate investment advice, have selected a strategic asset allocation benchmark for the Fund including control ranges for each asset class and or geographic region (see Appendix 1).

Subject to their respective benchmarks and guidelines (shown in Appendix 1) the investment managers are given full discretion over the choice of stocks and are expected to maintain diversified portfolios.

The Trustees are satisfied that the investments selected are consistent with their investment objectives, particularly in relation to diversification, risk, expected return and liquidity.

The Trustees' policy in relation to risks

The Trustees consider the main risk to be that of the assets being insufficient to meet the Fund's liabilities as they fall due. The Trustees have considered the likelihood of undesirable financial outcomes arising in the future.

Investment policies are set with the aim of having sufficient and appropriate assets to cover the Fund's Technical Provisions with the long-term goal of buy-out, and with the need to avoid undue volatility of the contributions required.

In determining their investment strategy, the Trustees received advice from the investment consultant. Taking this into account, along with the expected returns underlying the most recent actuarial valuation, the strategy outlined in Appendix 1 of this SIP has been adopted.

Although the Trustees acknowledge that the main risk is that the Fund will have insufficient assets to meet its liabilities, the Trustees recognise other contributory risks, including the following. Namely the risks:

- Associated with the differences in the sensitivity of asset and liability values to changes in financial and demographic factors.
- Of the Fund having insufficient liquid assets to meet its immediate liabilities.
- Of the investment manager failing to achieve the required rate of return.
- Due to a lack of diversification of investments.
- Of failure of the Fund's Sponsoring Employer to meet its obligations.

The Trustees manage and measure these risks on a regular basis via actuarial and investment reviews, and in the setting of investment objectives and strategy.

The Trustees undertake monitoring of the investment managers' performance against its targets and objectives on a regular basis.

Each fund in which the Trustees invest has a stated performance objective by which investment performance will be measured. These are shown in Appendix 1.

The divergence of the actual distribution of the investments from the benchmark weighting will be monitored by the manager. Any deviation from the target asset allocation will be discussed periodically with the investment consultant.

Stewardship in relation to the Fund's assets

The Trustees have a fiduciary duty to consider their approach to the stewardship of the investments, to maximise financial returns for the benefit of members and beneficiaries over the long term. The Trustees can promote an investment's long-term success through monitoring, engagement and/or voting, either directly or through their investment managers.

The Trustees' policy is to delegate responsibility for engaging and monitoring investee companies to the investment managers. The Trustees expect the investment managers to use its discretion to maximise financial returns for members and others over the long term.

The Trustees' policy is to delegate responsibility for the exercising of rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments to the investment managers and to encourage the managers to exercise those rights. The investment managers are expected to provide regular reports for the Trustees detailing their voting activity.

Investment management monitoring

The Trustees will assess the performance, processes and cost effectiveness of the investment managers by means of regular reviews of the results and other information, in consultation with the investment consultant.

All investment decisions, and the overall performance of the investment managers, are monitored by the Trustees with the assistance of the investment consultant.

The investment managers will provide the Trustees with quarterly statements of the assets held along with a quarterly report on the results of the past investment policy. The investment managers will also report orally on request to the Trustees.

The investment managers will inform the Trustees of any changes in the internal performance objective and guidelines of any pooled funds used by the Fund as and when they occur.

The Trustees will assess the quality of the performance and processes of the investment managers by means of a review at least once every three years in consultation with the investment consultant.

Appropriate written advice will be taken from the investment consultant before the review, appointment or removal of the investment managers.

The Trustees' policy in relation to their investment managers

In detailing below the policies on the investment managers arrangements, the over-riding approach of the Trustees is to select investment managers that meet the primary objectives of the Trustees. As part of the selection process and the ongoing review of the investment managers, the Trustees consider how well each investment manager meets the Trustees' policies and provides value for money over a suitable timeframe.

How the arrangement incentivises the investment managers to align its investment strategy and decisions with the Trustees' policies

The Trustees have delegated the day to day management of the Fund's assets to their investment managers. The Fund's assets are invested in pooled funds which have their own policies and objectives and charge a fee, agreed with the investment managers, for their services. Such fees incentivise the investment manager to adhere to their stated policies and objectives.

How the arrangement incentivises the investment managers to engage and take into account financial and non-financial matters over the medium to long-term

The Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, appoint their investment managers to meet specific Fund policies. They expect that their investment managers make decisions based on assessments about the financial performance of underlying investments, and that they engage with issuers of debt or equity to improve their performance (and thereby the Fund's performance) over an appropriate time horizon.

The Trustees have decided not to take non-financial matters into account when considering their policy objectives.

How the method (and time horizon) of the evaluation of the investment managers' performance and the remuneration for asset management services are in line with the Trustees' investment policies

The Trustees expect their investment managers to invest the assets within its portfolio in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines and constraints set out in its appointment documentation. The Trustees review the investment managers periodically. These reviews incorporate benchmarking of performance and fees. Reviews of performance focus on longer-term performance (to the extent that is relevant), e.g. looking at five years of performance.

If the Trustees determine that the investment manager is no longer managing the assets in line with the Trustees policies they will make their concerns known to the investment manager and may ultimately disinvest.

The Trustees pay their investment managers a management fee which is a fixed percentage of assets under management.

Prior to agreeing a fee structure, the Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, consider the appropriateness of this structure, both in terms of the fee level compared to that of other similar products and in terms of the degree to which it will incentivise the investment manager.

How the Trustees monitor portfolio turnover costs incurred by the investment managers, and how they define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover or turnover range

The Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, have processes in place to review investment turnover costs incurred by the Fund on an annual basis. The Trustees receive a report which includes the turnover costs incurred by the investment managers used by the Fund.

The Trustees expect turnover costs of the investment managers to be in line with their peers, taking into account the style adopted by the investment managers, the asset class invested in and prevailing market conditions.

The Trustees do not explicitly monitor turnover, set target turnover or turnover ranges. The Trustees believe that the investment managers should follow their stated approach with a focus on risk and net return, rather than on turnover. In addition, the individual mandates are unique and bespoke in nature and there is the potential for markets to change significantly over a short period of time.

The duration of arrangements with investment managers

The Trustees do not in general enter into fixed long-term agreements with their investment managers and instead retain the ability to change investment manager should the performance and processes of the investment manager deviate from the Trustees' policies. However, the Trustees expect their manager appointments to have a relatively long duration, subject to the manager adhering to its stated policies, and the continued positive assessment of its ability to meet its performance objective.

Employer-related investments

The Trustees will not make direct investments in the Sponsoring Employer's own securities. The amount of the Sponsoring Employer's securities owned by pooled investment vehicles invested in, is monitored. The Trustees have delegated the responsibility for the exercising of any voting rights attached to any Sponsoring Employer investment held to the investment manager.

Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)

The Trustees have full discretion as to the appropriate investment vehicles made available to members of the Fund for their voluntary contributions. Only investment vehicles normally considered suitable for voluntary contributions will be considered by the Trustees, having taken appropriate written advice from properly qualified and authorised financial advisers.

The Trustees make available a range of investment options for the members' AVCs. In selecting the range of funds offered the Trustees have taken advice from their professional advisers on:

- The risks faced by members in investing on a money purchase basis.
- The Trustees' responsibilities in the selection and monitoring of the investment options offered.

The Trustees will continue to manage the AVC arrangements having taken professional advice on these matters. The Trustees will monitor the performance of AVC providers periodically.

Members are directed to seek independent financial advice when considering their AVC arrangements.

Appointments and responsibilities

This section sets out the key appointments and responsibilities with respect to the investment aspects of the Fund.

Trustees

The Trustees' primary responsibilities include:

- The preparation of this SIP, reviewing its contents and modifying it if deemed appropriate, in consultation with the Sponsoring Employer and the investment consultant, at least every three years. The SIP will also be reviewed following a significant change to investment strategy and/or the investment managers.
- Appointing investment consultants and investment managers as necessary for the good stewardship of the Fund's assets.
- Reviewing the investment strategy as part of each triennial actuarial valuation, and/or asset liability modelling exercise, and/or significant changes to the Fund's liabilities, taking advice from the investment consultant.
- Assessing the processes and the performance of the investment managers by means of regular reviews of information obtained (including investment performance).
- Monitoring compliance of the investment arrangements with this SIP and with the relevant sections of the Act, the Investment Regulations and any regulatory guidance on a regular basis.
- Monitoring risk and the way in which the investment managers have cast votes on behalf of the Trustees in respect of the Fund's equity holdings.

Investment consultant

The main responsibilities of the investment consultant include:

- Assisting the Trustees in the preparation and periodic review of this SIP in consultation with the Sponsoring Employer.
- Undertaking project work including reviews of investment strategy, investment performance and manager structure as required by the Trustees.
- Advising the Trustees on the selection and review of investment managers.
- Providing training or education on any investment related matter as and when the Trustees sees fit.

Investment managers

The investment managers' main responsibilities include:

- Investing the assets within their portfolio in a manner that is consistent with the objectives set out in this SIP.
- Ensuring that the investment of the assets within their portfolio is compliant with prevailing legislation and the constraints detailed in this SIP.
- Providing the Trustees with quarterly reports and a review of the investment performance of their portfolio.
- Meeting with the Trustees as and when required.

- Informing the Trustees of any changes in the fee structure, internal performance objectives and guidelines of any pooled fund within their portfolio as and when they occur.
- Considering financially material risks affecting investments within their portfolio.
- Exercising voting rights on shareholdings within their portfolio in accordance with their general policy.

Custodian

The custodian's main responsibilities include:

- The safe-keeping of the Fund's assets in respect of which they are responsible.

The custodianship arrangements are those operated by the investment managers for all clients investing in their pooled funds.

Administrators

The administrator's main responsibilities in respect of investment matters include:

- The day to day administration of the Fund and the submission of specified statutory documentation, as delegated by the Trustees.

The Fund's administrator is Scottish Widows.

Scheme Actuary

The Scheme Actuary's main responsibilities in respect of investment policy include:

- Commenting on the suitability of the Fund's investment strategy given the financial characteristics of the Fund.
- Performing the triennial (or more frequently as required) actuarial valuation and advising on the Fund's funding level and therefore the appropriate level of contributions in order to aid the Trustees in balancing short-term and long-term investment objectives.

The Scheme Actuary is Elaine Clarkson of Mercer.

Compliance

The Fund's SIP is publicly available to members on the company's website and also available on request.

A copy of the Fund's current SIP is also supplied to the Sponsoring Employer, the Fund's auditors and the Scheme Actuary.

This SIP, taken as a whole with the Appendices, supersedes all others and was approved by the Trustees.

Full name

Signature

Position

For and on behalf of

Date

Appendix 1 – Strategic benchmark and objectives

Fund's target asset allocation

The Fund's target asset allocation is tabulated below:

Asset type	Investment style	Allocation (%)	Control Range (%)
Global Equity	Passive	37.0	30.0-44.0
Return enhancing		37.0	
Corporate Bonds	Passive	15.0	7.5-12.5
Equity-Linked Liability Driven Investments	Passive	20	
Liability Driven Investments ('LDI')	Passive	18	
Cash	-	10	
Risk reducing		363.0	
Total		100.0	

BMO Equity-Linked Liability Driven Investments provides a further 28% exposure to global equities split 20/80 to UK and overseas equities respectively.

Benchmark and performance objectives

Benchmark indices and relative performance objectives for each of the funds in which the Fund's assets are invested are outlined below. All performance targets are gross of fees and relate to rolling three-year periods. **State Street Global Advisors & BMO Asset**

Management passively manage the investments on behalf of the Fund.

Manager	Fund	Benchmark index	Objective % p.a.
State Street Global Advisors	SSGA All World ESG Screened Index Equity Sub-Fund	FTSE All World ex Controversies ex CW Index	Track the benchmark
	SSGA Sterling Non-Gilts Bond All Stocks Index Sub-Fund	Bloomberg Barclays Sterling Aggregate 100 mm Non-Gilts Index	Track the benchmark
BMO	Real Dynamic LDI Fund	Gilt and Swap Comparators	To provide liability hedging by offering interest rate and inflation protection which replicates the liability profile of a typical UK defined benefit pension scheme.
	Nominal Dynamic LDI Fund	Gilt and Swap Comparators	To provide liability hedging by offering interest rate and inflation protection which replicates the liability profile of a typical UK defined benefit pension scheme.
	Equity-Linked Real Dynamic LDI Fund	Gilt and Swap Comparators with an equity overlay	To provide liability hedging by offering interest rate and inflation protection which replicates the liability profile of a typical UK defined benefit pension scheme whilst also

Manager	Fund	Benchmark index	Objective % p.a.
			providing exposure to equities.
	Sterling Liquidity Fund	GBP 7-day LIBID	Maintain high levels of liquidity and generate a return in line with money market rates

Appendix 2 – Fees

Investment manager fees

Manager	Fund	Investment style	Management fee % p.a.
State Street Global Advisors	SSGA All World ESG Screened Index Equity Sub-Fund	Passive	0.075 up to £30 million 0.070 on £30 million to £60 million 0.065 on £60 million to £150 million 0.060 on £150 million to £300 million 0.055 on £300 million or above
	SSGA Sterling Non-Gilts Bond All Stocks Index Sub-Fund	Passive	0.08 up to £5 million 0.07 on £5 million to £30 million 0.05 on £30 million or above
BMO	Real Dynamic LDI Fund	Passive	0.300 up to £15 million 0.250 on £15 million to £50 million 0.210 on £50 million to £100 million 0.180 on £100 million or above
	Nominal Dynamic LDI Fund	Passive	0.300 up to £15 million 0.250 on £15 million to £50 million 0.210 on £50 million to £100 million 0.180 on £100 million or above
	Equity-Linked Real Dynamic LDI Fund	Passive	0.320 up to £15 million 0.300 on £15 million to £50 million 0.270 on £50 million to £100 million 0.250 on £100 million or above

Manager	Fund	Investment style	Management fee % p.a.
	Sterling Liquidity Fund	Passive	0.100

Sources: SSgA & BMO